



05/19/04

Express Mail No. ER452516135US  
Attorney Docket No.: AM-2772.P1

1763  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Ajay Kumar et al.

§ GROUP ART UNIT: 1763

SERIAL NO.: 09/882,823- **323**

§  
§ EXAMINER: A. W. Olsen

FILED: June 13, 2001

§  
§ Attorney Docket No.:  
§ AM-2772.P1

FOR: METHOD OF ETCHING SILICON NITRIDE

Date: May 18, 2004

**RESPONSE "A" UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111**  
**TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

**Hon. Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**

Sir:


Transmitted herewith is applicants' Response "A" to the Office Action mailed January 23, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response of April 23, 2004. This Response "A" is accompanied by a Petition for a One Month Extension of Time, to extend the period for response through May 24, 2004.

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR § 1.10**

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as U.S. EXPRESS MAIL NO. ER452516135US in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment (With Fee), Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: May 18, 2004

  
Shirley L. Church, Reg. No. 31,858

### CLAIMS AS AMENDED

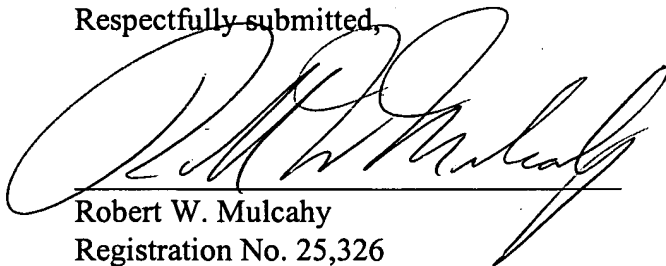
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER <u>AMENDMENT</u>		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY <u>PAID FOR</u>		PRESENT <u>EXTRA</u>		<u>RATE</u>	ADDITIONAL <u>FEE</u>
TOTAL CLAIMS	87	minus	87	=	0	x	\$18.00	\$ 00.00
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	8	minus	8	=	0	x	\$86.00	\$ 00.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS			0				\$290.00	\$ 00.00
ONE MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME								\$ 110.00
							TOTAL FEE DUE	\$ 110.00

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the amount of \$ 110.00, in payment of the fee for the One Month Extension of Time, as well as any additional fees which may be due, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 50-1074 of Applied Materials, Inc., Santa Clara, California.

This transmittal letter is submitted in duplicate for accounting purposes.

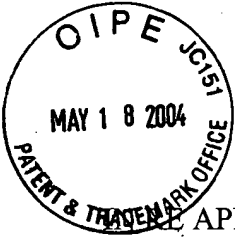
Express Mail No. ER452516135 US  
Attorney Docket No.: AM-2772.P1

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. W. Mulcahy', is written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Mulcahy  
Registration No. 25,326  
Attorney for Applicants

Correspondence Address:  
Patent Counsel  
Applied Materials, Inc.  
P.O. Box 450-A  
Santa Clara, California 95052



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Sir:

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Claims 1 - 87 are pending in the application.

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Shirley L. Church, Reg. No. 31,858

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Claims 1 - 28 and 57 - 67 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,721,090, to Okamoto et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,910,392, to Nozaki et al.

Claims 29 - 56 and 68 - 87 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,617,257, to Ni et al., in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0076935, of Maex et al.